National Board of Examinations

1675. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any authority to intervene in the functioning of the National Board of Examinations;

(b) whether the Union Government received any complaints about the functioning of the National Board of Examinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Under the Rules governing the National Board of Examinations, the Central Government may issue directions to the Board for ensuring its proper functioning.

(b) and (c). Certain irregularities were reported. The matter is under examination.

भूकम्प के शिकार हुए व्यक्तियों को राहत राशि देने के बारे में रेड क्रास के अधिकारियों पर आरोप

1676. **श्री शांति त्यागी:** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 23 नवम्बर, 1993 के दैनिक "नवभारत टाइम्स" में "भूकम्प पीड़ितों के लिए राहत राशि पर रेड क्रास अफसरों का शिकंजा" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि रेड क्रास द्वारा प्राप्त की गई 2 करोड़ रुपये की राशि में से मात्र 8 लाख रुपये की राशि ही महाराष्ट्र के भूकम्प पीड़ितों पर खर्च की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई जांच करायी है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और सरकार भूकम्प पीड़ितों को बगैर और देरी किए राहत राशि उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध कर रही है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बी॰ शंकरानन्द): (क) से (ग). 47 कार्मिकों के एक दल को, जिसमें डाक्टर, तकनीशियन और रेड क्रास के स्वयं सेवक शामिल थे, राहत कार्यों के लिए औषधियों और खाद्य पदार्थों को लेकर महाराष्ट्र के भूकम्प पीड़ित क्षेत्रों में इस आपदा के तत्काल बाद भेजा गया था। महाराष्ट्र सरकार की सलाह से रेड क्रास सहायता के और उपयोग की योजना को अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा।

AIIMS type Hospital in Eastern and North Eastern Region in West Bengal

1677. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to open an AIIMS type Hospital cum Research Centre for the Eastern and North Eastern Region in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

1678. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing machinery, if any, to monitor the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act by the various State Government;

(b) whether any review has been made to know how far the basic purpose of the law has been achieved and the deficiencies, if any; in the implementation of the Act;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the names of the States where implementation of the Act has been found wanting; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B.

SHANKRANAND): (a) Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs are the nodal officers to monitor the administration of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act within their respective jurisdiction.

(b) and (c). Reviews have revealed that there is a need to improve and augment the testing facilities and increase the enforcement staff. Implementation of the Act varies from State to State depending upon the infrastructure available.

(d) Government have taken measures to augment the capacity of State Food Laboratories through financial grants and to improve the efficiency of the staff through training programme.

Family Planning Programmes

1679. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by the Chief Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund that India's family planning programme has improved;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) how Indian Government's statistics compare with that of UNFPA;

(d) what according to Government's estimates is the population growth rate;

(e) to what extent the Family Planning Programmes have been successful; and

(f) what changes are being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The performance is improving.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed *Statement-I*. (*See* below).

(d) According to latest provisional Sample Registration System estimates (1992), the natural growth rate of population is 1.9%.

(e) The details of the same are given in the enclosed *Statement-II*.

(f) An Action Plan has been formulated that consists of improving the quality and outreach of services; promotion of spacing methods among young couples; special focus in 90 demographically backward districts; involving voluntary and non-governmental organisations to promote community participation; strengthening of interventions to promote maternal and child health care; and reorienting Information, Education & Communication activities for promoting awareness towards adopting the small family norm.

Statement-I

Details regarding improvements made in the Family Planning Programmes in India

Indicator	Official* (1992)	UNFPA 1990—95)
1. Population	867.8 million	879.5 million (1992)
2. Birth Rate	29.0	29
3. Death Rate	10.0	10
4. Growth Rate (%)	1.9	1.9
5. Infant Mortality Rate	79	88
6. Total Fertility Rate	3.8 (1990 SRS)	3.9

* Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate are SRS provisional estimates